

Map 2. Lower 48 States

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR**Minerals Management Service****Draft Environmental Impact Statement for Proposed Oil and Gas Leasing Program, 1997 to 2002**

AGENCY: Minerals Management Service, DOI

ACTION: Notice of Availability of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the Proposed Outer Continental Shelf Oil and Gas Leasing Program for 1997 to 2002.

DES 96-7.

The Minerals Management Service has prepared a draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) relating to the Proposed Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) Oil and Gas Leasing Program for 1997 to 2002 pursuant to section 102(2)(C) of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969.

Information on the availability of the draft EIS in Alaska can be obtained from: Regional Director, Alaska Region, Minerals Management Service, 949 East 36th Avenue, Anchorage, Alaska 99503-4302, telephone (907) 271-6435. For availability of the draft EIS along the Pacific Coast contact: Regional Director, Pacific Region, Minerals Management Service, 770 Paseo Camarillo, Camarillo, California 93010, telephone (805) 389-7502. For availability of the draft EIS along the Gulf of Mexico Coast and the Atlantic Coast contact: Regional Director, Gulf of Mexico Region, Minerals Management Service, 1201 Elmwood Park Boulevard, New Orleans, Louisiana, telephone (504) 736-0557. Information on the availability of the draft EIS can also be obtained from Chief, Environmental Projects

Coordination Branch, Minerals Management Service, 381 Elden Street, MS-4320, Herndon, Virginia 22070-4817, telephone (703) 787-1674.

Copies of the draft EIS will be available for review in public libraries located throughout the coastal States. Information regarding the libraries and their locations may be obtained from any of the offices listed above. The list of libraries and their locations is also available on the Minerals Management Service Homepage on the Internet at <http://www.mms.gov>.

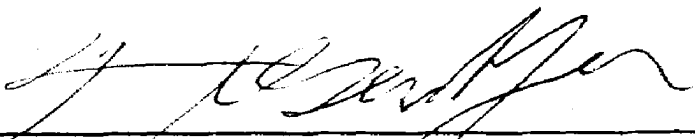
In accordance with 30 CFR 256.2(b), public hearings relating to the draft EIS will be held in late March and early April. The exact dates, times, and locations of the hearings will be announced by Federal Register notice in the near future.

Comments resulting from reviews of the draft EIS and written materials prepared as part of testimony at the public hearings should be mailed to the Director, Minerals Management Service, 381 Elden Street, MS-4320, Herndon, Virginia 22070-4817, Attention:

Richard Wildermann. Hand deliveries to the Department of the Interior may be made to Room 4227 Main Interior Building, 1849 C Street, NW., Washington, D.C. 20240.

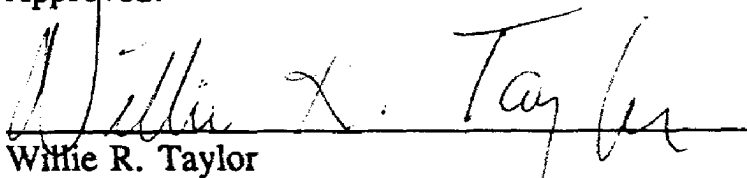
Envelopes or packages should be marked "1997-2002 Oil and Gas Program draft EIS."

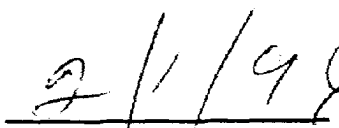
After the public hearing testimony and written comments on the draft EIS have been reviewed and analyzed, a final EIS will be prepared. The comment period for the draft EIS for the Proposed OCS Oil and Gas Leasing Program for 1997 to 2002 closes May 9, 1996.



Associate Director for Offshore Minerals Management
Thomas Gernhofer

Approved:



Willie R. Taylor
Director, Office of Environmental Policy
and Compliance

Date